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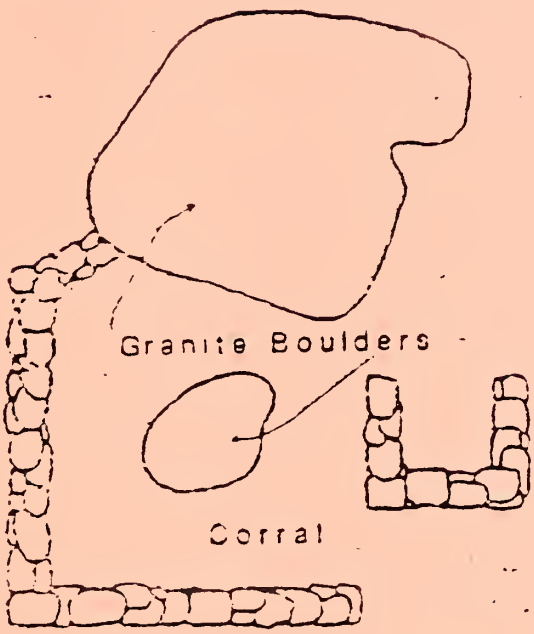
# Cultural Resources Document

## Investigations at the Chiefetz Historic Site, Arizona





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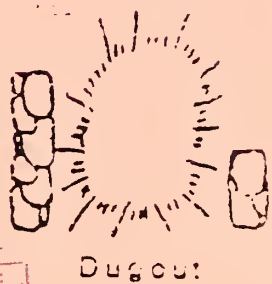




Retaining Wall for Roadbed

# INVESTIGATIONS AT THE CHIEFETZ HISTORIC SITE, ARIZONA

by
Jeffrey Boyer and Dee F. Green

USDA FOREST SERVICE
Southwestern Region
September 1983

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## Preface

It is always a relief to report the results of an investigation after several years delay. This is true even when the results are neither spectacular nor the investigation particularly stimulating. Nevertheless, we feel that the Chiefetz Site merits more than a simple clearance report with a bunch of artifacts boxed on a shelf. We have, therefore, prepared this report that the profession may have the limited information available with the hope that in the future it will contribute its part to a better understanding of the historic period happenings on the Prescott National Forest. We are indebted to a number of people for assisting us with this report, especially David Gillio who served as coach in things historic and made valuable editorial suggestions. Thelma Renwick and David Park were very helpful in assisting with the documents search of the Forest Service land status records. We thank Joann Mares for typing the manuscript and the Prescott National Forest, especially Harlow Yeager, for their assistance during the field portion of the project. We appreciate the services of Laurel Wallace who prepared the maps. The artifacts drawings were done by Jeffrey Boyer.

# Investigations at the Chiefetz Historic Site, Arizona

Jeffrey Boyer and Dee F. Green

## Introduction

During October 1977, Green visited a small historic site on the Prescott National Forest, Arizona for the purpose of documenting the site prior to its passing from federal ownership. Known as the Chiefetz Site, after a land exchange proponent, the site was discovered by Harlow Yeager as part of a survey conducted in connection with the land exchange (Yeager 1977). The site was determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer who recommended that the site be documented prior to its disposal. Our visit to the site resulted in the collection of various artifacts, photographs, and the drawing of a site map. These documents were returned to the Forest Service Regional Office in Albuquerque where Boyer was responsible for the artifact description and analysis. This paper reports that analysis along with the background information on the site and our interpretation of the site's use.

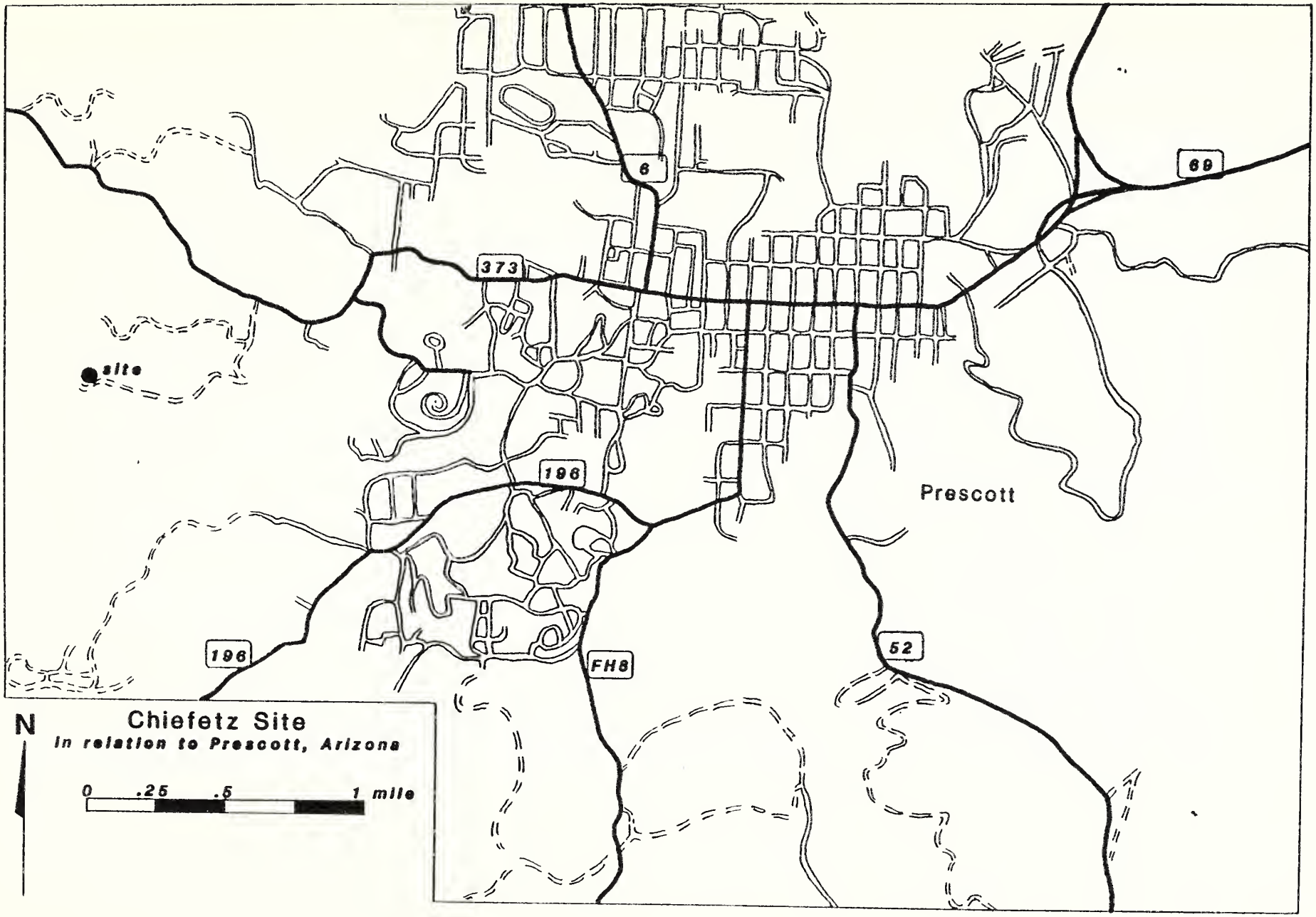
The Chiefetz site is located just outside Prescott, Arizona (Map 1) on a parcel of land known as Lot 10 in Section 6, T. 13 N., R. 2 W. It sits on a south facing slope above Butte Creek, an intermittent stream which flows east into Prescott. Vegetation consists of mixed Chaparral and pinyon-juniper with scattered Ponderosa Pine near the stream. Site elevation is about 5,700 feet and there are geologic outcroppings of granite from which the shallow soils are formed.

The site itself consists of a series of stone alignments (Map 2) representing structures and a wagon road. The masonry is crude, employing the local granite available in the immediate vicinity. Structure 1 is clearly a dugout with low stone walls flanking the earthen depression (Figure 1).

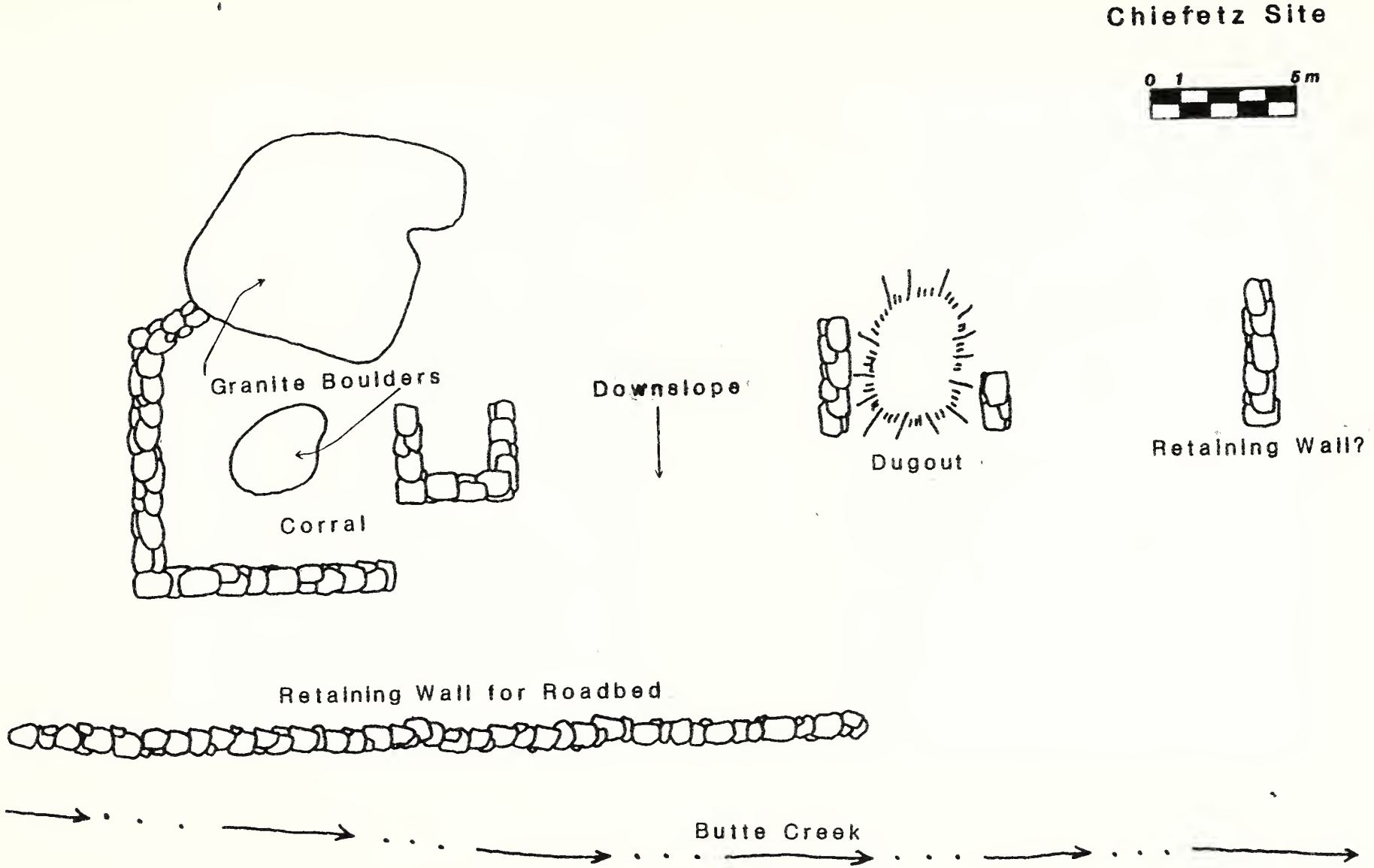
The second structure (Figure 2) was interpreted by Yeager (1977) as a corral. This interpretation is probably correct since there are not enough stones in the vicinity to argue for a structure with other than low walls. Further, the structure sits in front of a large granite boulder which formed one wall of the enclosure. A brush superstructure probably completed the walls enough to contain livestock.

Running in front of the structures is a pathway which is now little more than a trail but once may have been a wagon road. It is bordered with granite boulders (Figures 3 and 4) on the downslope side (toward the stream). Its full extent was not traced although it does run west beyond the site.

The surface collection was made primarily in front of structure 1 and between structures 1 and 2. Few artifacts were present in other areas. All metal objects were retrieved from the surface and all ceramic and glass sherds except for very small pieces were collected. Since no testing was anticipated every effort was made to take a complete sample of materials from the surface. A trash area and latrine were looked for but not observed. The latter may have been covered by the dense chaparral growth which covers parts of the site, or such a structure may not ever have been erected.




Map 1. Prescott, Arizona and Environments




Map 2. Chiefetz Site Map

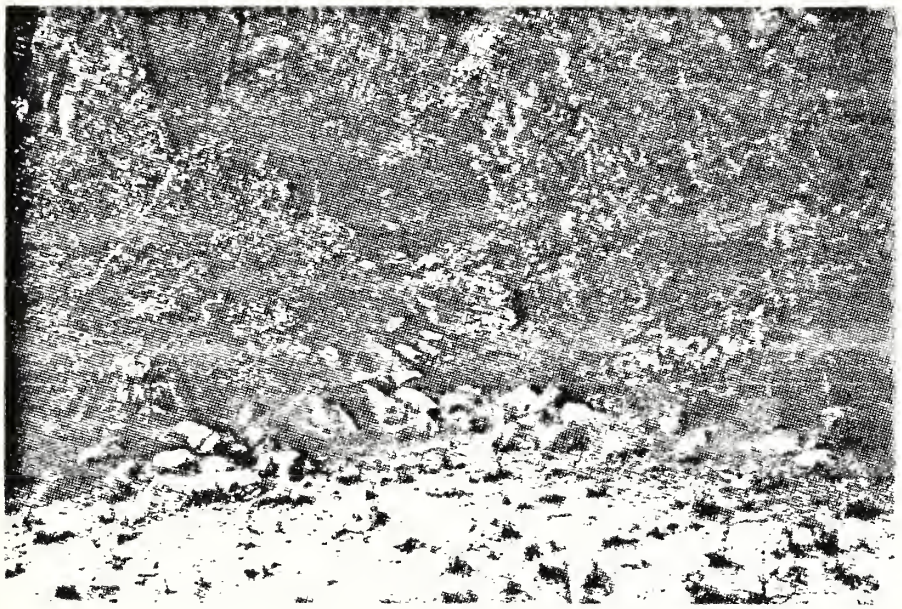


Figure 1. The Dugout

Figure 2. The Corral

Figure 3. The Road

Figure 4. The Road West from Figure 3.

## Historical Background

In the history of Arizona, the city of Prescott is famous essentially for two reasons. First, it was the Territorial Capital from 1864 to 1867 and again from 1877 until 1889 when the capital was moved to Phoenix. Second, it was the center of the mining industry for that part of Arizona. The city was established by the first territorial governor, John Goodwin in May of 1864 on Granite Creek.

The surrounding country was already inhabited by Anglo miners who arrived the previous year prospecting for gold in the Bradshaw Mountains. In Chino Valley to the north the army had established Ft. Whipple to deal with the Apache. The prospectors made important placer finds along the larger streams especially Bigbug, Lynx, and Hassayampa Creeks. A minor "rush" followed with estimates of two million dollars removed (Lockwood 1932:199) and nuggets worth as much as $80 found (Lindgre 1926:109). The placer gold soon gave out, however, to be replaced by silver and later copper mining as the focus of interest. Nevertheless, some panning for gold along the streams in the area continues till the present (Harlow Yeager, personnel communication).

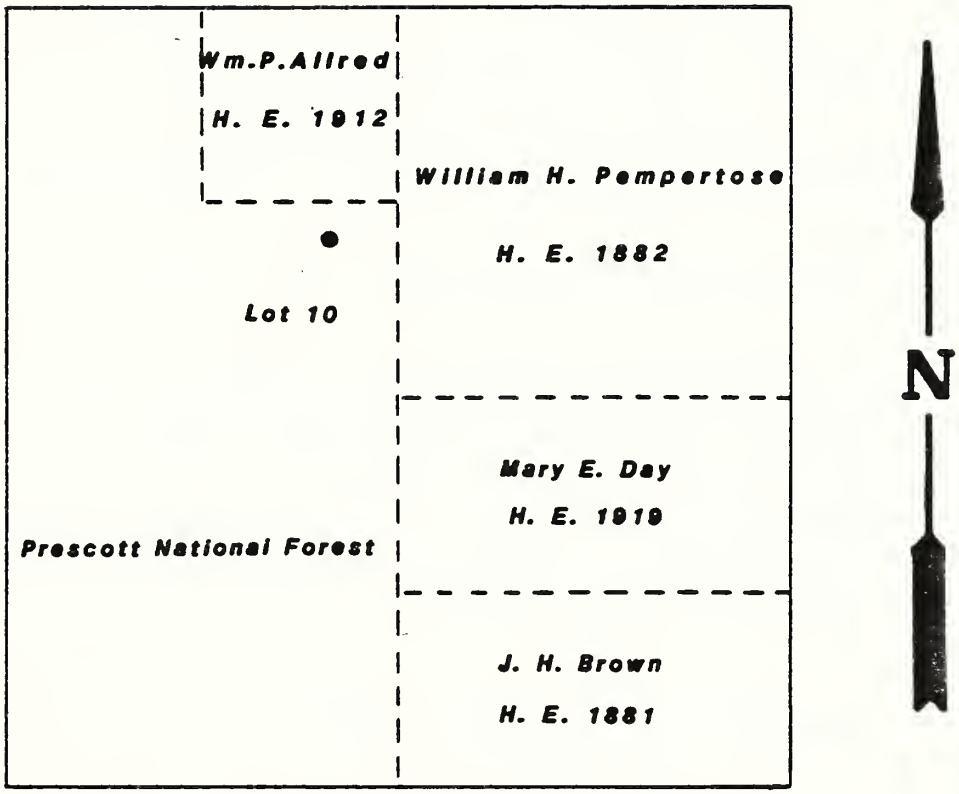
Ranching soon vied with mining as the major industry around Prescott, part of the general ranching boom that began in Arizona during the late 1870s (Brown 1976:8). The lumber industry also grew during this period, primarily to support the mining industry. By 1886 timbers were also in demand for the new rail line which reached Prescott the following year. In 1893 an additional line had been completed to haul ore and beef out and goods and machinery in (Trimble:133). Homestead activity brought additional people into the area and by the end of the century Prescott had developed into a thriving little frontier town. For the information in this section we have relied on: Brown 1976, Granger 1960, Faulk 1970, and Palache 1905; Lindgren 1926, Lockwood 1932, Trimbel 1977, and Wagoner 1970.

The area around the Chiefetz Site was first surveyed in 1872 (USDA Forest Service 1983). A plat of the section, which was then public domain, was filed on February 12 of that year according to Forest Service land status records. These records also show no homestead or mineral entry for Lot 10 and it remained in public domain until 1910 when it was made a part of the Prescott National Forest. Some parcels near Lot 10 were, however, patented under the Homestead Entry Act (Map 3). J. H. Brown patented 80 acres to the southeast of Lot 10 on September 24, 1881, and the following year William H. Pempertose filed patent number 184 on 160 acres to the northeast. Patent was issued on December 15, 1882. Additional patents in Section 6 were issued, after the turn of the century, on November 23, 1912, to Wm. P. Allen for a 40 acre parcel immediately north of Lot 10; and on February 11, 1919, to Mary E. Day for 60 acres southeast of Lot 10. No mineral patents were ever issued for Section 6. The United States Government issued patent for Lot 10 to Trans-America Title Company on October 16, 1978.

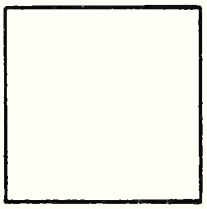
## Chiefetz Site

T13N , R2W

Section 6




H. E. = Homestead Entry



= 40 Acres

● = Site

Map 3. Homestead Patents in Chiefetz Site Vicinity.

## Analysis

The analysis was performed by first sorting the artifacts into four groups based on the kinds of material used. These groups were glass, metal, and ceramic. Two additional items, a shoe sole and a sea shell, form a fourth or "miscellaneous" group. Sherds from the same artifact (nails in the case of metal) were lumped together and each artifact was then described using the following categories:

Glass: Number of fragments, fragment types (neck, base, body), color, other descriptive details (such as embossing, seams, thickness, etc.), dates of manufacture, functional category.

Metal: Artifact type, material (kind of metal), condition, other descriptive details, date of manufacture, functional category.

Ceramics: Number of sherds; type; glaze, decoration and maker's mark, date of manufacture, functional category.

Miscellaneous: Artifact type, material, description, date of manufacture, functional category.

When assigning function categories we followed the scheme developed for the Coal Gasification Plant Survey by Ward, Abbink and Stein (1977). This scheme set out to "develop the functional categories on the basic framework of human needs." Ten categories were derived: 1. subsistence, 2. foodstuffs, 3. indulgences, 4. medicinal, 5. personal effects, 6. domestic routine, 7. household equipment, 8. recreation and play, 9. construction and maintenance, and 10. transportation. A category called "unassigned" is also included for objects which cannot be assigned to one of the categories above or for which the function is unknown.

We recognize that objects often have more than a single function. We believe, however, that by providing the reader with our interpretation of what the object may have been used for as well as the "objective" description of the artifact the interests of interpretation are better served.

## Artifact Descriptions

Fifty-three artifacts were removed from the site of which 18 were glass, 31 metal, 2 ceramic, and 2 miscellaneous. The glass artifacts were comprised of 59 sherds from 15 bottles and 3 additional pieces. In the information that follows, nails have been described together, but counted separately above since they are individual items of manufacture.

Glass-

Bottle 1
Number of fragments - 3.
Fragment types - body.
Color - amethyst, pale.
Other descriptive details - none.

Dates - 1880 - 1915. The dates are assigned on the basis of the color. Amethyst ("purple") glass is the result of manganese in the glass, which was added to produce clear glass. However, it turned glass amethyst when exposed to ultraviolet light. Manganese was used between about 1880 and 1915, when its availabilty was curtailed by international conditions which became World War I.

Functional category - Unassignable.

Bottle 2
Number of fragments - 1.
Fragment types - body.
Color - amethyst, pale.
Other descriptive details - The sherd is embossed "...HICAG..." The sherd is also of variable thickness, being 3/16 inches thick and 2/16 inches thick at the edge. The exterior surface is flat, the interior surface is not, producing the variable thickness. See Figures 5a and 5b.

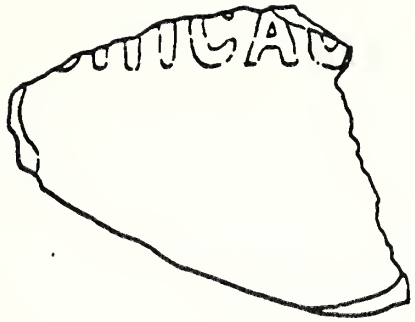
Dates - 1880 - 1915. The date assigned on the basis of the color.

Functional category - Indulgences. This is a tentative assignment based on the sherd morphology. Pint and half-pint liquor bottles are often characterized by body walls of variable thickness, such as is seen in this sherd. See Figure 5c.

Bottle 3
Number of fragments - 1.
Fragment types - body.
Color - amethyst, dark.
Other descriptive details - The sherd is quite thick, 3/16 inches.
Dates - 1880 - 1915. The dates are assigned on the basis of color.
Functional category - Unassignable.

Bottle 4
Number of fragments - 2.
Fragment types - body.
Color - amethyst, pale.
Other descriptive details - The sherds are quite thick, 3/16 inches.
Dates - 1880 - 1915. The dates are assigned on the basis of color.
Functional category - Unassignable.

Bottle 5
Number of fragments - 3.
Fragment types - body.
Color - amethyst.
Other descriptive details - One sherd is embossed "C..." Another sherd is of variable thickness, similar to Bottle 2. The sherd is 2/16 inches in the center, thinning to 1/16 inches at the edge.
Dates - 1880 - 1915. The dates are assigned on the basis of color.
Functional category - Indulgences. This tentative assignment is made on the basis of the variable thickness of one sherd.



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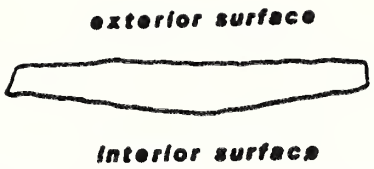


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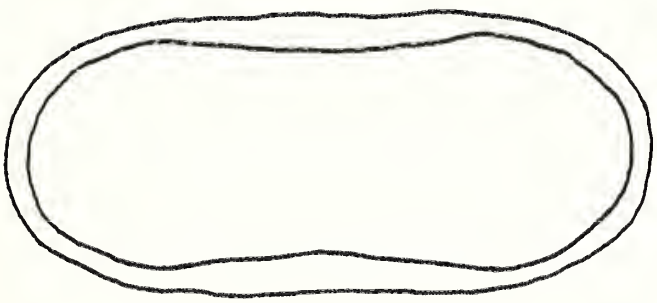

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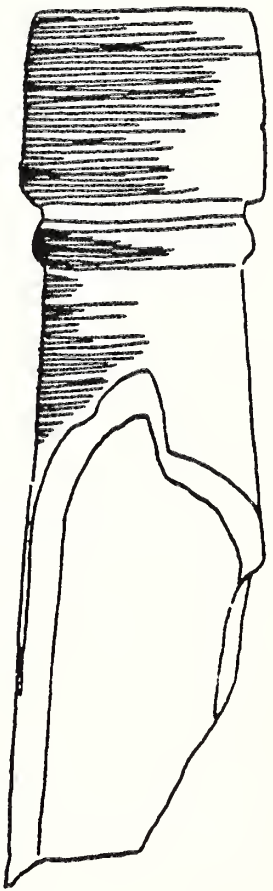

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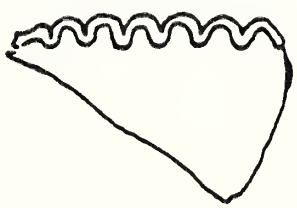


d

Figure 5. Glass Artifacts from the Chiefetz Site.

Bottle 6
Number of fragments - 1.
Fragment types - base.
Color - clear.
Other descriptive details - The sherd is embossed "...TTS..." There is no mold seam on the base, indicating it was not made on an automatic machine.
Dates - 1880 - 1915. The clear color indicates the use of an additive to produce clear glass, which has been popular since about 1880 (Murphy 1980). That it has a smooth base with no marks except embossing indicates it was blown in a mold and handled with a snap case, which was common until about 1915 (Newman 1970:74).
Functional category - Unassignable.

Bottle 7
Number of fragments - 2.
Fragment types - body.
Color - aqua.
Other descriptive details - One sherd is embossed "[[." Both sherds have several bubbles and impurities.
Dates - 1880 - 1900? The dates are assigned on the basis of color, which Murphy (1980) says was common from 1880 - 1900.
Functional category - Indulgences. This tentative assignment is based on the fact that thick aqua glass was common in beer bottles during this time.

Bottle 8
Number of fragments - 1.
Fragment type - body.
Color - aqua.
Other descriptive details - The sherd is quite thick, 4/16 inches.
Dates - 1880 - 1900. The dates are assigned on the basis of color.
Functional category - Indulgences.

Bottle 9
Number of fragments - 1.
Fragment type - body (shoulder).
Color - aqua.
Other descriptive details - none.
Dates - 1880 - 1900. The dates are assigned on the basis of color.
Functional category - Indulgences. The sherd is a body-shoulder fragment from a beer bottle.

Bottle 10
Number of fragments - 2.
Fragment types - body.
Color - olive green.
Other descriptive details - none.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - indulgences. This assignment is based on the color, which may indicate a wine bottle (see Fontana 1968).

Bottle 11
Number of fragments - 2.
Fragment types - body and neck.
Color - olive green, light.
Other descriptive details - none.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - Indulgences.

Bottle 12
Number of fragments - 5.
Fragment types - body.
Color - green, light.
Other descriptive details - All of the sherds contain small bubbles.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - Indulgences.

Bottle 13
Number of fragments - 1.
Fragment types - body.
Color - green, pale.
Other descriptive details - The interior and exterior surfaces have a distinct "dimpling." The cause of this is unknown, but it may be the result of corrosion. The glass is "sick," that is, the process of leaching soda out of the glass is fairly advanced.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - Unassignable.

Bottle 14
Number of fragments - 1.
Fragment types - base-body.
Color - green, light.
Other descriptive details - The sherd is very "sick." The base has a "kick-up."
Dates - pre-1915. The date is based on the lack of a mold seam, which indicates it was not made on an automatic machine. Also, the "kick-up" dates to about the same period (Ward, Abbink and Stein 1977:231).
Functional category - Indulgences. The "kick-up" was a common feature of wine bottles.

Bottle 15
Number of fragments - 2.
Fragment types - body, neck-finish.
Color - brown.
Other descriptive details - The finish is a "Brandy" finish. The presence of possible horizontal striations in the exterior surface of the glass may indicate use of a "turn-mold." This was not actually a mold, but a process of rotating the bottle in the mold to obliterate mold seams. See Figure 5e.
Dates - ca. 1880 - 1900. The dates are assigned on the basis of both the finish and the possible evidence of a "turn-mold." The brown color may indicate that the finish belonged to a beer bottle. "Brandy"

finishes were common on beer bottles from 1873 to 1890. The "turn-mold" was common between 1880 and 1910, although usually on wine or champagne bottles (Ayers: personal communcation).
Functional category - Indulgences. While the brown color may indicate a beer bottle, the neck is not a common bulbous beer bottle neck, but is rather straight. This may indicate a wine bottle, which is supported by the evidence of a "turn-mold."

Jar
Number of fragments - 28.
Fragment types - rim, body, base.
Color - Clear.
Other descriptive details - The jar was manufactured by Anchor-Hocking, and is about two-thirds reconstructable. It measures 4 inches tall, the base is 2 8/16 inches in diameter, the mouth is 2 10/16 inches in diameter. It is about a half-pint size.
Dates - post-1938. Anchor-Hocking has been making glass products since 1938 (Toulouse 1971).
Functional category - Food.

Flat Piece
Number of fragments - 1.
Fragment types - body.
Color - clear.
Other descriptive details - There are several small bubbles in the glass, but the fragment is too small to discern the method of manufacture.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - Unassignable.

Pressed Glass
Number of fragments - 1.
Fragment types - rim.
Color - clear.
Other descriptive details - The rim is "scalloped." See Figure 5d.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - Unassignable.

Metal

Can
Artifact type or function - Condensed milk can.
Material - tin-plated steel.
Condition - The bottom and some portion of the body have been cut away from the can.
Other descriptive details - The can has lapped side seams and a soldered lid seam. The "matchstick" size hole in the top is plugged with lead solder. The can has a diameter of 2 8/16 inches by 2 8/16 inches, the height is not known but was probably also 2 8/16 inches.
Dates - ca. 1900 - 1932. Fontana and Greenleaf (1962:74-75) state that the "matchstick" size hole was used by Carnation sometime after 1899, and that the 2 8/16" by 2 8/16" can was not used after 1932.
Function category - Food.

Crown Cap
Artifact type or function - Container closure for soda, beer, and sauce bottles.
Material - steel?
Condition - rusted.
Other descriptive details - none.
Dates - post-1892. The crown cap was patented in 1892 and is still in common use.
Functional category - Indulgences.

Wrought Nail
Artifact type or function - nail.
Material - iron?
Condition - rusted.
Other descriptive details - This nail appears to be wrought, based on a square rather than rectangular cross-section at the point (Fontana and Greenleaf, 1962:52; Gillio, Levine and Scott 1980:2). It may, however, be square-cut.
Dates - unknown. This type of nail was common before 1800, but Fontana and Greenleaf (1960:50-52) state that it might be common much later in isolated areas where people had limited access to store nails.
Functional category - Construction/Maintenance.

Square-cut Nails
Artifact type or function - Seven nails, four nail fragments.
Material - steel?
Condition - rusted, some badly corroded.
Other descriptive details - Of the seven nails, there is one 6d. nail, five 8d. nails and one 9d. nail. Only one nail was in good enough condition to show the manufacturing technique. It was produced on a machine which removed the necessity of turning the plate (Fontana and Greenleaf, 1962:51,54; Gillio, Levine, and Scott 1980:2).
Dates - 1810-ca. 1890.
Functional category - Construction/Maintenance.

Wire Nails
Artifact type or function - Three wire nails.
Material - steel.
Condition - rusted.
Other descriptive details - There are two 8d. nails and one 4d. nail.
Dates - post-1890. Wire nails began to overshadow square-cut nails about 1890 to 1900.
Function category - Construction/Maintenance.

Wood-screw
Artifact type or function - One 1x¼ flathead wood-screw.
Material - steel.
Condition - rusted.
Other descriptive details - none.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - Construction/Maintenance.

Shotgun Shell
Artifact type or function - one 12 gauge shotgun shell.
Material - brass.
Condition - bent.
Other descriptive details - This is a Winchester Leader No. 12, with a grooved body. The Leader was the first smokeless-powder paper shell introduced by Winchester. It came out in 1894. In 1896, a new design was patented, wherein the body was grooved to hold the paper shell in the cartridge better (Williamson 1952:142, 147). See Figures 6a and 6b. The primer is stamped "WRA Co. NEW No. 4."
Dates - 1896-ca. 1920. Gillio (personal communication) has suggested that the numbering of primers was discontinued about 1920.
Functional category - Subsistence/Production? A shotgun could have been put to any number of uses at a site. One of these might have been hunting.

Small Container Lid
Artifact type or function - closure for small container.
Material - ferrous?
Condition - badly corroded.
Other descriptive details - The replaceable lid fit inside the body of the container it belonged with. Its diameter is 1 6/16 inches.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - Unassignable.

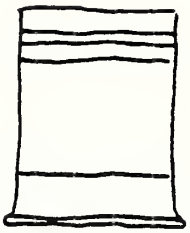
Metal Heel Plate, Shoe
Artifact type or function - a metal heel plate for a shoe.
Material - iron?
Condition - rusted; worn at back of heel.
Other descriptive details - The plate belonged on the heel of a man's shoe or boot. It is a size 8 heel plate.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - Personal Effects.

Wood Joiner
Artifact type or function - an implement for joining boards.
Material - steel?
Condition - rusted.
Other descriptive details - none.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - Construction/Maintenance.

Cinch Rinch
Aritifact type or function - saddle cinch ring.
Material - steel.
Condition - rusted.
Other descriptive details - 3 inches maximum diameter.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - Transportation.

Can Fragment
Artifact type or function - unknown.
Material - tinned steel?


a



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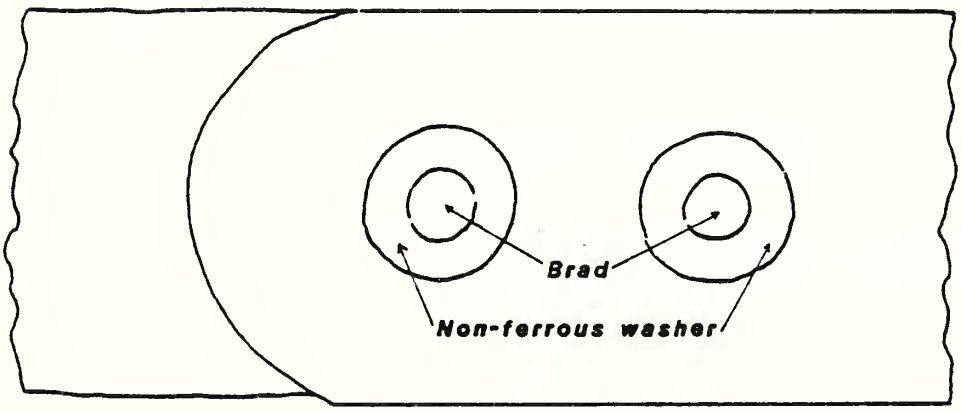


c

Figure 6. Metal artifacts from the Chiefetz Site.

Condition - badly corroded.
Other descriptive details - embossed "...LVE."
Dates - unknown.
Functional Category - Unassignable.

Buckle Ring
Artifact type or function - D-shaped ring from a small buckle.
Material - ferrous?
Condition - rusted.
Other descriptive details - measures 1 3/16 inches x 14/16 inches.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - Unassignable.

Wire
Artifact type or function - twisted wire, 6 strands.
Material - steel?
Condition - rusted.
Other descriptive details - appears to be machine-twisted.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - Unassignable.

Barrel Hoop
Artifact type or function - possible barrel hoop fragment.
Material - steel and a nonferrous metal.
Condition - rusted.
Other descriptive details - two strips of steel joined by two brads and two nonferrous washers. The steel is 2 inches wide. See Figure 6c.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - Unassignable.

Possible Tool Collar
Artifact type or function - possible collar joining metal head to wooden tool handle.
Material - steel?
Condition - rusted, bent.
Other descriptive details - The 1 inch diameter ring is slightly tapered, is 14/16 inches high.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - Construction/Maintenance.

Iron Strip
Artifact type or function - unknown.
Material - ferrous.
Condition - rusted, broken.
Other descriptive details - The strip is 15 inches long, 1 inch wide, less than 1/16 inches thick. It is broken at either end.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - Unassignable.

Unknown Iron Fragment
Artifact type or function - unknown.
Material - ferrous.

Condition - corroded.
Other descriptive details - The roughly circular item is about 1 6/16 inches in diameter.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - Unassignable.

Cast Iron
Artifact type or function - two cast iron fragments, possibly part of a cooking implement such as a Dutch oven.
Material - cast iron.
Condition - broken, rusted.
Other descriptive details - Both pieces have flanges at what appear to be the outer edges. They are about 2/16 inches thick.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - Domestic Routine?

Ceramic
Pot 1
Number of sherds - 1.
"Type" - stone ware.
Glaze, decoration or marks - possible European salt glaze, orange-tan slip with clear glaze (Ayers: personal communcation). Part of mark in corner:  , engraved while pot was still wet.
Dates: 1750 - 1900?
Functional category - Unassignable.

Pot 2
Number of sherds - 1.
"Type" - stone ware.
Glaze, decoration or marks - Chocolate-brown glaze.
Dates - unknown.
Functional category - Unassignable.

Miscellaneous
Shoe Sole
Artifact type or function - one child's shoe sole.
Material - leather.
Description - A right shoe sole, probably a child's size 5 or 6. The sole was stitched all the way around, with one tack in the ball of the foot.
Dates - Post - 1862 (Anderson 1968:59,64).
Functional category - Personal Effects.

Shell
Artifact type or function - portion of a sea shell.
Material - shell.
Description - 10/16 inches x 8/16 inches x 1/16 inches.
Dates - not applicable.
Functional category - Unassignable.

## Conclusions

On the basis of the data provided by the site examination, artifacts, and limited historical research we will present our interpretations. We will address both the issues of when the site was occupied and what it might have been used for. At the outset we caution that more in-depth historical and archeological investigations could change and certainly flesh out the picture we currently have of the Chiefetz site.

## Dating

Table 1 compiles the dating information from the various artifacts and indicates a possible occupation span from the 1890s to around 1920. There is however, no evidence to suggest that the site was occupied for up to 30 years. Since Lot 10 remained in the public domain until 1910, and there were no homestead entries nor mining claims filed, there is little probability that a specific occupation date will be discovered. However, some lines of evidence are available to narrow the 30 year span.

Analysis of the information on Table 1 indicates four factors which may help to more accurately estimate the time of occupation. The first of these is the number of artifacts not available before the early to mid 1890s. These include the crown bottle cap, the shotgun shell, and the wire nails. The second factor is the number of artifacts not available after about 1900; including four bottles, the pot, and the square nails. The third factor is the number of artifacts not available after 1920, all of which were available in or before 1900. Finally, only two artifacts, a can and a jar, were available only after 1900.

From this evidence based on the manufacturing dates of the artifacts, we feel the best date for the site is between the mid 1890s and 1900. Due to the relative scarcity of artifacts and the insubstantial nature of the structures at the site, the site was probably occupied for a period spanning a few months to a few years immediately prior to or at the "turn of the century."

While the artifacts are the best line of evidence, other events (such as the Railroad of 1893, which would have made the bottles more abundant and less expensive) make a reasonable argument against an earlier date. One might suggest that proclamation of the Prescott National Forest in 1910 would argue against a later date for the site. However, if the site inhabitants intended to homestead Lot 10 this would not have been a deterrent since National Forest Lands could still be homesteaded. Nevertheless, we find little evidence for extending the occupation beyond the first decade of the century.

In an attempt to see if a period of relatively high homestead activity might coincide with a potential occupation period, Green tabulated the homestead entry dates for the four townships surrounding the site area. He found that 25 homestead patents had been issued between 1881 and 1924. There was no pattern in these data which would argue for any one time period being a more likely candidate for the site's occupation date than any other. Given the data in hand, our best estimate, therefore, is that the Chiefetz site was occupied for a short period of time around the turn of the century.

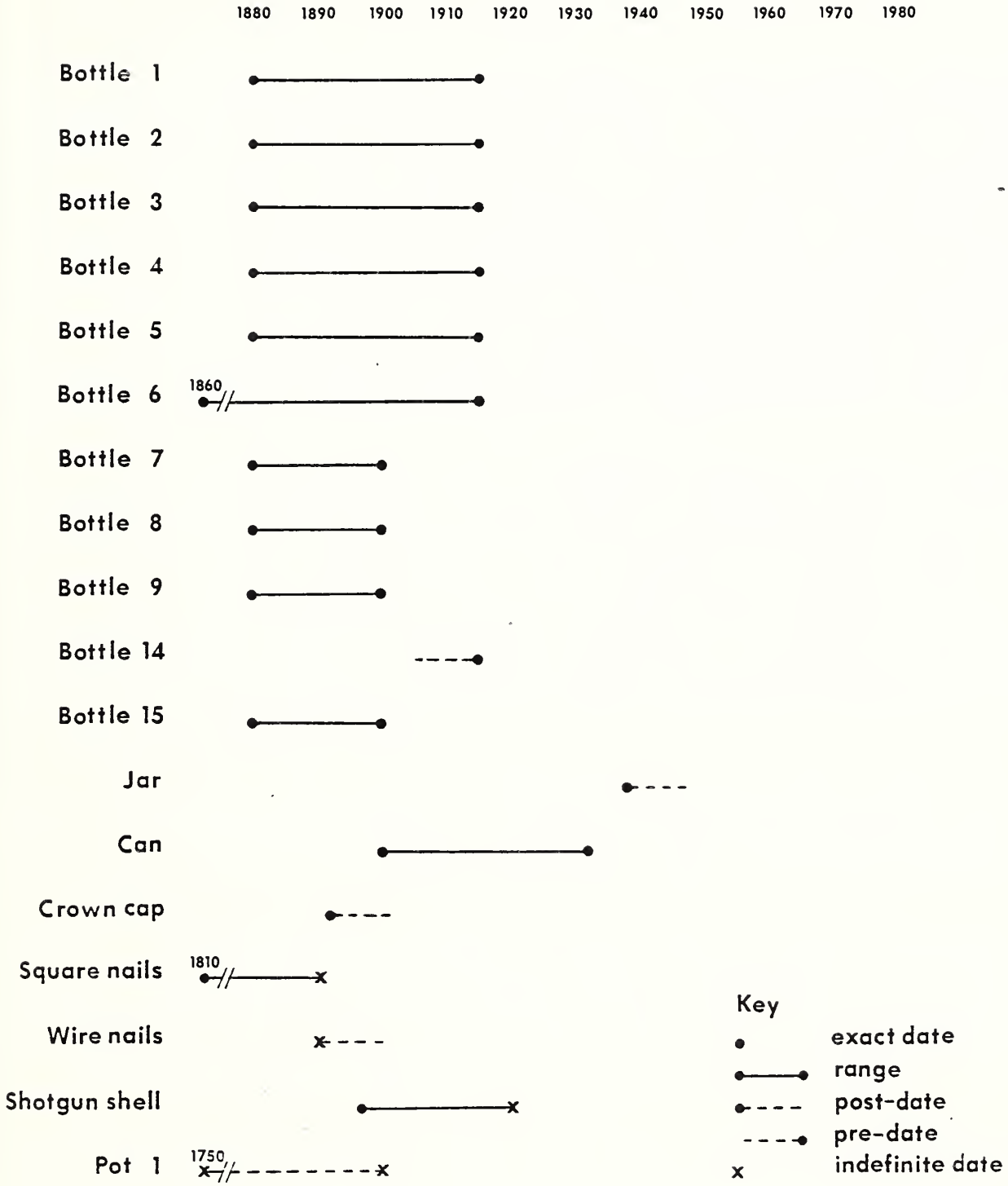


Table 1. Artifact Dates from the Chiefetz Site.

## Site Use

One of two interpretations seems most reasonable for the Chiefetz site given its location and time period. It could either be a placer mining site or a homestead. Since neither of these possibilities is documented by a mining claim or homestead entry application other lines of evidence must be used. Lack of a documented claim or application is no reason to suggest that these activities may not have been the intended use of the site. If the site was used as a base for placer mining along Buttes Creek no claim would necessarily have been filed, although this is unlikely. On the other hand, if homesteading was the intent there would have been no urgency to file since there was little activity in this area. In fact, Green's data on homestead activity in the four surrounding townships show that from 1895 to 1900 only four applications were filed and none at all were filed in the years 1896-98. Thus, the occupants of the area could have been intent on homesteading but simply gave up and abandoned the site before application was filed.

Of the two interpretations we favor the homestead idea for several reasons. If placer mining were the reason for establishing the site, there is a higher probability that a claim would have been filed to protect the operation than would be the case with homesteading. The construction of the road argues for an intent to stay for some period of time. Again, if mining had been the reason, and there was enough potential to spend energy building the road, there would almost certainly have been a claim filed. Further, the architectual information tends to support this conclusion. While the presence of a dugout could be associated with either activity, it is difficult to fit in the need for a corral with placer mining, while a corral would be common place on a homestead during this period.

On the other hand, the artifactual information tends to present another picture. By studying the assignment of artifacts to functional categories and by making some assumptions regarding sexual dominance in certain activities, information is gained which sheds a different light on the interpretations.

Because of the fragmentary nature of the assemblage, 34 percent of it was placed in the Unassignable category, making this category the largest. Construction/Maintenance and Indulgences are the next largest categories, with 28 percent and 20 percent of the assemblage, respectively. The former contains mostly nails and the later mostly beer, wine, and liquor bottles. All other categories are represented by only one or two items, except Household equipment and Entertainment/Leisure which are not represented.

It appears, then, that the assemblage reflects a lack of domestic activity, as seen in household equipment, domestic routine, and food items. If we assume that, at this point in time, construction and alcohol consumption were male-dominated activites while domestic activities were female-dominated, the assemblage appears to reflect male-dominated activities in a non-domestic setting, a conclusion not in line with the historical and architectual interpretations.

The most important factor in resolving this discrepancy may be the suggested short period of occupation. It may be that the site was not occupied long

enough for items reflecting household equipment or domestic routines to have entered the archeological record. Further, it may be that the site was not homesteaded by a family but rather by a single person, probably male. One person would be expected to produce fewer candidates for archeological remains than would a group of people.

While none of the artifacts suggest any particular tie with placer mining operations the child's shoe might be considered evidence for a homestead. The remainder of the artifacts could have been associated with either use. Finally, we suggest that if the site was occupied around the turn of the century that placer mining would have been played out to the point that any work along that stretch of Buttes Creek would have been carried on from a base in nearby Prescott. That is, we again argue that the effort to establish the site would almost certainly have required a claim being filed to protect the mineral interests had mining been the reason for establishing the site. Since no such mineral claim was filed, homesteading seems to be the most likely motive even though no application was ever filed.

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